APPENDIX D: SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTS RATING VALUES

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SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTS RATING VALUES

This appendix lists sensitive environments and scoring values used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the hazard ranking system of those sites under consideration for being placed on the National Priorities List (40 CFR Part 300, Appendix A). In evaluating the potential impacts of U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) sites, adjacent sites as well as on-site areas must be evaluated. The types of environments listed in the following table (taken from 55 Federal Register 51582, December 14, 1990, as revised on October 1, 1991, p. 3-157) should be considered by ecologists and the DOE Remedial Project Manager in developing a list of habitats requiring ecological data collection in cases where sensitive environments are likely to be impacted by hazardous contaminants (see Module 9 of the guidance document). The numerical value given could be useful to indicate the relative importance of the sensitive environment present in the vicinity of the CERCLA site.

TABLE D.1 Sensitive Environments Rating Values

Sensitive Environment	Assigned Value
Critical habitat ^a for Federal-designated endangered or threatened species	100
Marine Sanctuary	200
National Park	
Designated Federal Wilderness Area	
Areas identified under Coastal Zone Management Act ^b	
Sensitive areas identified under National Estuary Program ^c or Near Coastal Waters Program ^d	
Critical areas identified under the Clean Lakes Program ^e	
National Monument	
National Seashore Recreational Area	
National Lakeshore Recreational Area	
14 Miningt Davostinia Recreational unea	
Habitat known to be used by Federal-designated or proposed endangered or threatened species	75
National Preserve	
National or State Wildlife Refuge	
Unit of Coastal Barrier Resources System	
Coastal Barrier (undeveloped)	
Federal land designated for protection of natural ecosystems	
Administratively Proposed Federal Wilderness Area	
Spawning areas critical ^g for the maintenance of fish/shellfish species within river, lake, or coastal tidal waters	
Migratory pathways and feeding areas critical for maintenance of anadromous fish species within river reaches or areas in lakes or coastal tidal waters in which the fish spend	
extended periods of time	
Terrestrial areas utilized for breeding by large or dense aggregations of animals ^h National river reach designated as Recreational	
Habitat known to be used by State-designated endangered or threatened species	50
Habitat known to be used by species under review as to its Federal endangered or threatened status	
Coastal Barrier (partially developed)	
Federal-designated Scenic or Wild River	
State land designated for wildlife or game management	25
State-designated Scenic or Wild River	
State-designated Natural Areas	
Particular areas, relatively small in size, important to maintenance of unique biotic communities	
State-designated areas for protection or maintenance of aquatic life ⁱ	5

See next page for footnotes.

- ^a Critical habitat as defined in 50 CFR 424.02.
- b Areas identified in State Coastal Zone Management plans as requiring protection because of ecological value.
- National Estuary Program study areas (subareas within estuaries) identified in Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans as requiring protection because they support critical life stages of key estuarine species (Section 320 of Clean Water Act, as amended).
- d Near Coastal Waters as defined in Sections 104(b)(3),304(1), 319, and 320 of Clean Water Act, as amended.
- ^e Clean Lakes Program critical areas (subareas within lakes, or in some cases entire small lakes) identified by State Clean Lake Plans as critical habitat (Section 314 of Clean Water Act, as amended).
- f Use only for air migration pathway.
- g Limit to areas described as being used for intense or concentrated spawning by a given species.
- h For the air migration pathway, limit to terrestrial vertebrate species. For the surface water migration pathway, limit to terrestrial vertebrate species with aquatic or semiaquatic foraging habits.
- i Areas designated under Section 305(a) of Clean Water Act, as amended.

APPENDIX E:

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APPENDIX F:

GLOSSARY

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GLOSSARY

- assessment endpoint: Formal expressions of the actual environmental values to be protected.
- baseline risk assessment: Identification of risks associated with taking no action at a CERCLA site.
- bioaccumulation: The net accumulation of a chemical by an organism as a result of uptake from all exposure routes.
- bioconcentration: Tendency for a chemical to occur in biota at higher concentrations than in the surrounding environmental medium; used mostly in the context of aquatic organisms in aquatic media.
- biomagnification: The tendency of some chemicals to accumulate to higher concentrations at higher levels in the food web through dietary accumulation.
- biomarker: Measurement of body fluids, cells, or tissues that indicate, in biochemical or cellular terms, the presence and magnitude of toxicants or host response.
- dose: A measure of exposure per unit time.
- ecological assessment work plan: A document that identifies the ecological risk assessment process to be conducted at a CERCLA site.
- ecological risk assessment: The process of evaluating the likelihood that adverse ecological effects may occur or are occurring as a result of exposure to one or more stressors.
- effects: Changes in biotic parameter values specified by the assessment endpoints that are potentially attributable to a pollutant.
- endpoint: A characteristic of an ecological component that may be affected by exposure to a stressor.
- feasibility study: A study undertaken by a lead federal agency to develop and evaluate options for remedial action.
- field sampling plan: Description of sampling and data collection methods necessary to conduct an ecological assessment.
- measurement endpoint: Quantitative expressions of an observed or measured effect of a hazard that must correspond to or predict assessment endpoints.

- quality assurance project plan: A written document that describes the organization, objectives, functional activities, and specific quality assurance and quality control procedures designed to achieve data quality objectives for a CERCLA project.
- reference area: A relatively unpolluted site having essentially the same ecological and physical properties used for comparison to the polluted site being evaluated.
- remedial action: Those actions taken at a CERCLA site consistent with the selected permanent remedy to prevent or minimize the release of a hazardous substances into the environment so that substance migration does not cause substantial danger to present or future public health or welfare or the environment.
- remedial investigation: The process undertaken by the lead federal agency at a CERCLA site to determine the nature and extent of the problem presented by the release.
- stressor: A chemical, radiological, or physical hazard at or near a contaminated site that can adversely effect resident or transient species.
- toxicity: The harmful effects resulting from exposure to a pollutant; chemical properties that cause harmful effects in organisms.